

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 IO-14 /134 W

----- 127677

R 241205Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0195

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 1869

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SL

SUBJECT: TREASON TRIAL CONTINUING

REF: FREETOWN 1813

1. TREASON TRIAL OF 15 ACCUSED CONTINUING WITH PROSECUTION STILL SPELLING OUT DETAILS OF PLOT THROUGH TESTIMONY OF LONG LINE OF WITNESSES. ONLY NEW MILDLY SENSATIONAL DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN TESTIMONY GIVEN SEPT 20 BY AN ARMY PRIVATE ON FRINGES OF PLOT TO EFFECT THAT AT ONE MEETING OF PLOTTERS IN JULY MOHAMED SORIE FORNA, THE PRINCIPAL ACCUSED , NOTED THAT PRESIDENT STEVENS WAS DUE TO ATTEND A RECEPTION AT CAPE SIERRA HOTEL AND SUGGESTED TO GROUP THAT THE HOTEL WOULD BE BEST LOCATION TO ATTACK THE PRESIDENT. TESTIMONY TO DATE QUITE DETAILED AS TO DATES AND PLACES OF PLOTTERS' MEETINGS AND PARTICIPANTS AND SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AND APPEARS TO HANG TOGETHER WELL.

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2. EMBASSY'S SOURCES ARE NOW INDICATING THAT PRESENT TRIAL IS PROBABLY ONLY FIRST OF THREE, WITH LATER TWO TO COVER, FIRSTLY, THOSE PERSONS WHO NOT MAIN CONSPIRATORS BUT FAIRLY CLOSE TO PLOT AND, SECONDLY, THOSE FARTHER OUT ON FRINGES. APPEARS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT FSL VICTOR WILLIAMS (ON LOAN TO PEACE CORPS) AND EMBASSY GUARD CONTRACTOR JOHN J. DAVIES (EMBASSY SUSPENDED DAVIES' CONTRACT SEPT 23) MAY BE INCLUDED IN TRIAL NO. 2.

3. AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED PHONE CALLS FROM AP CORRESPONDENT LONDON SEPT 21 AND TODAY SEEKING CONFIRMATION OF REPORT IN LONDON THAT 17 PERSONS DUE TO BE PUBLICLY EXECUTED IN FREETOWN WITHOUT TRIAL ON SEPT 22 AND INFO ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED TRIAL PROCEEDING AND APPEARED LIKELY CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME AND THAT WHILE EVENTUAL DEATH SENTENCES AND EXECUTIONS POSSIBLE, LEGAL PROCEDURES APPARENTLY BEING OBSERVED.
OLSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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